

Message Text

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PM:SGEIS

EUR/CE:GHUMPHREY

EUR/RPM:JFROEBE

EUR/WE:KSMITH

H:RPUGH

EUR:REBARBOUR

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE

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HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION: MARCH 31

MEETING OF NATO/AD HOC GROUP

REFS: (A) USNATO 1663, DTG 231855Z MAR 77

-- (0) STATE 12319, DTG 190110Z JAN 77

-- (C) USNATO 1137, DTG 021735Z MAR 77

1. WE CONCUR IN MISSION'S APPROACH OF BRIEFING ALLIES FULLY ON OUR DELIVERIES AND FY-77 PLANS, AND UNDERSTAND THAT FRG MISSION WILL DO LIKEWISE. WE ALSO CONCUR THAT MISSION SHOULD WORK WITH FRG MISSION TO AGREE ON RESULTING BALANCE OF TOTAL EQUIPMENT LEST WHICH WE BOTH COULD PROPOSE TO OTHER ALLIES THAT THEY CONTRIBUTE.

2. MAJOR MATERIEL WHICH US ALREADY HAS RELEASED TO PORTUGAL INCLUDES:

5 M48A5 TANKS (LOAN)

20 M113A1 APC (LOAN)

6 T-38 TRAINER AIRCRAFT (LOAN)

3. FOR FY-77, THE SENATE HAS APPROVED A SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORIZATION BILL OF 34.5 MILLION DOLLARS, WHILE THE

HOUSE HAS APPROVED AN AUTHORIZATION BILL OF 30 MILLION DOLLARS. AN APPROPRIATION BILL OF 30 MILLION DOLLARS HAS PASSED THE HOUSE. THE SENATE IS EXPECTED TO CONSIDER A 34.5 MILLION DOLLAR APPROPRIATION BILL THIS WEEK. HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE COMMITTEES ON BOTH AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION BILLS ARE EXPECTED TO MEET SOON.
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4. PRINCIPAL GRANT MATERIEL ENVISAGED UNDER FY-77 PROGRAM OF 30 MILLION DOLLARS REQUESTED BY ADMINISTRATION INCLUDES:

AT LEAST 1 C-130 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT WITH SUPPORT EQUIPMENT

66 M113A1 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS (APC'S)

493 LIGHT ANTI-TANK WEAPONS (LAW)

16 TUBE LAUNCHED, OPTICALLY TRACKED, WIRE GUIDED MISSILES (TOW) LAUNCHERS

100 TOW MISSILES

IN ADDITION US IS PROGRAMMING 1.0 MILLION DOLLARS FOR PORTUGAL FROM THE MILITARY TRAINING APPROPRIATION,

A SEPARATE LINE ITEM. (THE US HAS ALSO ASKED FOR A FURTHER 25 MILLION DOLLARS IN APPROPRIATION FOR FY-78 FOR ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR PORTUGAL, BUT, BECAUSE OF ANTICIPATED AZORES NEGOTIATIONS, WE HAVE NOT GIVEN THIS HEAVY PUBLICITY.)

5. TO THE EXTENT THAT OTHER ALLIES ARE WILLING TO PROVIDE TO PORTUGAL OTHER EQUIPMENT ITEMS ON THE BRIGADE LIST--SUCH AS TOW MISSILES AND LAUNCHERS, AT WEAPONS OR APC'S, SOME OF WHICH THEY ARE THEMSELVES ACQUIRING FROM THE US--WE WOULD BE GLAD TO FACILITATE THE TRANSFER TO PORTUGAL AS GRANT AID PROVIDED BY SUCH NATO ALLIES SOME OF MATERIEL WHICH THEY ORIGINALLY HAD PURCHASED FROM US. SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD NOT ONLY HIGHLIGHT THE COORDINATED NATO CHARACTER OF THE PORTUGUESE MODERNIZATION EFFORT, BUT THEY WOULD ALSO SHORTEN THE DELIVERY TIMES TO PORTUGAL
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OF SUCH WEAPONS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE TO AWAIT THE TIMEFRAME OF NORMAL PROCUREMENT DELIVERIES. 6. MISSION SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT WE BELIEVE IT MOST IMPORTANT THAT THIS EFFORT BE AN ALLIANCE ONE. IF NECESSARY YOU SHOULD STATE THAT WE FEEL THAT IT IS NOT REALLY CREDIBLE (GIVEN THE NATURE OF THE ITEMS OUTSTANDING ON THE LIST OF PORTUGUESE NEEDS) FOR THE OTHER ALLIES TO STATE

THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO MAKE A MATERIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THIS VITAL NATO PROJECT.

THEREFORE, REGARDING THE QUESTIONS IN PARA 3 OF NATO 1137, FOR INTERNAL USG PURPOSES US AID WILL COME UNDER OUR BILATERAL GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND OUR GRANT INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM. HOWEVER, FOR PURPOSE OF GIVING TOTAL PROGRAM AS MUCH MULTILATERAL CHARACTER AS POSSIBLE, MISSION SHOULD FIRST COORDINATE WITH FRG AND PORTUGUESE, AND THEN PROPOSE TO THE AD HOC GROUP THE FOLLOWING:
A DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD IN EFFECT SERVE AS AN UMBRELLA TO THE BILATERAL ASSISTANCE WHICH VARIOUS NATO COUNTRIES WOULD PROVIDE PORTUGAL. SUCH A DOCUMENT WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE PROGRESS BEING MADE IN PORTUGAL; WELCOME PORTUGAL'S DESIRE TO RETURN TO FULLER MILITARY PARTICIPATION IN THE ALLIANCE DEFENSE; RECOGNIZE PORTUGAL'S NEED FOR ALLIED ASSISTANCE; AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE SIGNATORY COUNTRIES WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT WITHIN THEIR CAPABILITIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION EFFORT. SUCH A DOCUMENT COULD PERHAPS ALSO PROVIDE FOR ASSOCIATE ADHESION BY FRANCE, EVEN THOUGH IT IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE AD HOC GROUP. LANGUAGE MIGHT BE ALONG THE

FOLLOWING LINES:

QUOTE

IN ORDER TO
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-- MAKE CLEAR THE COOPERATIVE NATURE OF THE ASSISTANCE
OF THE SEVERAL MEMBER NATIONS TO THEIR PORTUGUESE
ALLY,

-- GIVE FORMAL RECOGNITION TO THE DESIRE AND SUCCESSFUL
EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL TO STRENGTHEN
ITS MILITARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMMON DEFENSE, AND

-- CONFIRM THAT THEY WELCOME AND SUPPORT PORTUGAL'S
EFFORTS TO THIS END,

THE ALLIES REPRESENTED IN THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE,
UNDERTAKE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT WITHIN THEIR CAPABILITIES
TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMON EFFORT OF PORTUGUESE FORCE
MODERNIZATION, AND WELCOME THE PARTICIPATION OF OTHER
ALLIES IN THIS VITAL COMMON CAUSE. END QUOTE.

WHAT WE WANT IS A LEGALLY NON-BINDING, POLITICAL STATEMENT
WHICH CAN BE COMMUNICATED OFFICIALLY AND PUBLICLY. ITS
INTENT IS TO HELP SOLIDIFY THE COMMITMENT TO PORTUGUESE

FORCE MODERNIZATION IN EACH GOVERNMENT, WITHOUT FORCING
THE QUESTION OF NATIONAL OBLIGATION. WHAT IS IMPORTANT,
OF COURSE, IS TO GET COMMITMENTS FROM OTHERS FOR
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PORTUGUESE PROGRAM.

CHRISTOPHER

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